[13th December 1961

S.S.L.C Examination (1961)

* 2315-M Q.—Sri T. S. Ramaswami : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of students who passed the S.S.L.C. Examination in April 1961;

(*b*) the number of students who applied for admission to Pre-University Courses; and

(*c*) the number who got admission?

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam : (*a*) The number of candidates declared eligible for admission to the Pre-University Courses of studies, in the S.S.L.C. Examinations held in March 1961 is 36,511.

(*b*) The number of candidates who applied for admission to the Pre-University Courses in 52 Colleges from which particulars have been received is 37,299.

(*c*) The number of students who have been admitted to the Pre-University Course in the 52 Colleges is 19,230.

Sri T. S. Ramaswami : May I know whether the attention of the Government was drawn to the fact that there is inadequacy of seats and that thousands of applicants could not get admission during this academic year?

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam : Sir, I do not think that at the present stage, it would be possible to provide seats for all those who make applications. After all, we have to make selections and merit also will have to be taken into consideration to find out whether the students will be good enough for the University Course.

Sri K. Vinayakam : In the matter of admission to the University Classes, only the best students are selected. So, would the Government reconsider the question of enhancement of the standard of marks to be awarded to the S.S.L.C. students lest the students may go disappointed because they scored a lesser number of marks?

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam : I have not been able to understand the question.

Deputy Speaker : Let the hon. Member please repeat the question.

Sri K. Vinayakam : Sir, in the present set-up students who score higher marks are given a preferential treatment in the matter of admission. In that event, the students who are declared eligible for the Pre-University Course but still incapable of getting seats, go disappointed because they scored lesser number of marks. So, to avoid this kind of contingency, would the Government give instructions to the S.S.L.C. Board to be more strict in the matter

of awarding marks and only then sufficient number of students would pass the examination and get seats for the University course?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I do not know what purpose will be served by the suggestion made by the hon. Member. The question papers are corrected by the proper authorities and they give marks on a certain basis. On that basis, students who score a limited number of marks are declared eligible for entrance into the Pre-University classes. It does not mean that all those who become eligible, should be automatically admitted to the University classes. After all, we should have only persons to meet our own requirements and we should not create unemployment amongst the higher educated sections of the people. Therefore we have to limit the number and we cannot afford to have an unlimited number of students in the colleges just now. Already we have 57 colleges where Pre-University course is provided.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : Now many girls pass the S.S.L.C. Examination at a very tender age and so, will the Government think of the desirability of starting Pre-University classes for girls in all the districts?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, for everybody there is an age-limit. If that age-limit is not reached, they will not be admitted into the University classes.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : In view of the scarcity of seats in the colleges, may I know what steps the Government will take to provide admission to students to be selected on the basis of merit and not on the basis of recommendations and other unfair practices?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, it should be left to the good sense of the managements themselves. As far as the Government colleges are concerned, we have got Committees and they look into the whole matter and they select on the basis of merit.

SRI A. MARIAPPAN : பெரும்பாலான மாணவர்களுக்கு கல்லூரியில் இடம் கிடைக்காத காரணத்தினால் சேலம் ஜில்லாவில் வட பகுதியில் ஒரு கல்லூரியைத் திறக்க சர்க்கார் முன்வருமா?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : சர்க்கார் முன் வராது. யாராவது ஆரம்பித்தால் அதற்கு உதவி செய்ய சர்க்கார் பரிசீலனை செய்யும்.

SRI M. K. SOMASUNDARAM : மாணவர்கள் அதிகமாகச் சேரவேண்டியிருப்பதனால் இருக்கக்கூடிய கல்லூரிகளிலாவது புதிய வகுப்புகளை துவக்க உதவி செய்யப்படுமா?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : இப்போதே சில கல்லூரிகளில் புதிய வகுப்புகளை ஆரம்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள். எந்த அளவுக்கு இதை விரிவாக்க வேண்டுமோ அந்த அளவுக்கு விரிவாக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.

[13th December 1961

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: In view of the fact that a large number of students are going disappointed for want of seats in Arts Colleges, would the Government think of the possibility of starting some technical institutes where some technical training could be afforded to them so that they could be engaged in our nation-building activities instead of turning them into disappointed students who may easily take to politics and thus upset the political equilibrium in the country?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As a matter of fact, after passing the S.S.L.C. Examinations, students go in for polytechnic courses and more than that thousands of girls and boys are taken in for teacher's training. There are other avocations where they could be diverted. If we admit all the students who pass the S.S.L.C. Examination into the University classes only, then the recruitment to the clerical field, to the teacher's cadre and to other things would suffer. Therefore it is not as if there are not other fields where these people would not be able to get proper employment or proper training.

SRI V. S. MANIKKASUNDARAM: Can the Government give an idea as to the number of students who have actually been disappointed for want of seats in the colleges for the Pre-University classes?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I gave the number with reference to 53 colleges and with regard to five colleges, the number is not available. Here also I must point out that some students might have applied to many colleges and therefore the number of applicants by itself might be misleading some times.

SRI V. S. MANIKKASUNDARAM: I want to know the number of students who have not got admission into the colleges for want of vacancies. I presume the number would be very small having regard to the fact that in the Coimbatore College, only very small number of students were not admitted?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, that is what I have stated. I have stated that out of about 37,000 applicants, about 19,000 students have been admitted. It is misleading to suppose that 37,000 students applied for admission because many students would have applied for more than one college and in some case it might be three or four colleges. Therefore, if we take into account the actual number of students who applied, I think the information given by the hon. Member is correct and only a small percentage of students could have gone without getting admission.

SRI T. T. DANIEL: May I know exactly what aid the Government will be giving to private agencies if they come forward to start Pre-University courses for Girls?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not think that this question arises out of the main question. Also I do not carry all these things in my memory.

13th December 1961]

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : Sir, Question No. 2298 has not been answered.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister for Local Administration is not here.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : Sir, that question would have been included in to-day's list of questions only after consulting the Hon. Minister concerned.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister was expected to come here and answer this question but she could not come.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : This is gong too much. In other Assemblies and in the Parliament some other Minister or Deputy Minister would answer.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will be answered soon after the Hon. Minister comes here.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : Sir, this is showing scant courtesy to the House.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Questions are over.

[NOTE.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by a member.]

II—CALLING ATTENTION TO THE NEED FOR SUPPLY OF RAILWAY WAGONS TO SALT MERCHANTS.

SRI N. S. RAMALINGAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Home to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the heavy loss incurred by salt merchants due to non-supply of railway wagons and the need for arranging regular supply of wagons for early clearance of about 80,000 tons of salt from Agasthiyampalli Station Yard which would otherwise get damaged.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I wish to make the following observations :—

A telegram followed by a letter has been received from Sri B. Kuppuswami Pillai, Salt Merchant, Vedaranyam, requesting early supply of wagons for immediate clearance of salt from Agasthyampalli Station Yard. Both the letter and the telegram have been forwarded by Government in the Food and Agriculture Department to the General Manager, Southern Railway, for providing necessary wagon facilities to the salt merchants. 9-30 p.m.

The District Operating Superintendent (Goods) has been contacted over the phone and the position set out in the notice has been explained to him and he has been asked to make immediate arrangements for wagon supply for early clearance of salt from Agasthyampalli Station Yard.